

Sisters' S. C. E.

CHRIST'S MINISTERS.

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How can we be Christ's ministers without preaching from the pulpit?

There are many ways in which we sisters can be Christ's ministers without preaching from the pulpit. I am glad to know the feeling is increasing among us, that there is a work for us to do, although comparatively, there are very few that fully realize what is required of us as individual workers. There has been a noble way opened to us to prepare ourselves as ministers through the S. S. C. E., by which we may develop and enlarge the Divine within us. As we meet, study our Bible together, admonish one another to be zealous, generous, charitable, and to have the love of God in us that we may have that love for each other that Christ has for us, we grow better and have more of the Christ spirit. Now let us look at some of the ways we can be Christ's ministers.

1. There are the sick and afflicted that we can visit, talk to them of the rich promises Jesus has given us, pray with them, help them spiritually and not only that way, but be just as ready to do anything that will lessen their physical distresses. We could send a few flowers and do much in various ways. A willing heart and hand can soften many a hard pillow and cool many a fevered brow.

2. We can be ministers by looking after those that lack the necessities of life in the way of food and clothing, for Christ says, the poor ye have always with you, and it is our duty to help with that which we have, be it ever so little.

3. We can do much good in the general work by financial aid. Here the society can do good collectively; 'tis true in the last year or two, it has been more difficult to get the work to do, but we hope for these conditions to change, and I want to impress upon you that we be not slack with this part of our work.

4. We can be ministers in our social life by ever bearing the Christ spirit, and being ready and willing to do whatsoever presents itself to us. There are oh, so many whose souls are sick and weary, that could we but plant a grain of the Christ spirit it would soon grow. We should pray as did Solomon for an understanding heart, that we may know when, where and what to speak. Jesus mingled with all conditions of life, yet not partaking of sin. Neither was he critical, but by that beautiful example led people to something higher.

5. Another good place to be a minister within the reach of all is in the home life. Here we have the first years of our children's training, and if we know how to overcome evil in ourselves, we can teach them when very small to understand and also conquer themselves. I know this and my heart swells within me to know what Jesus will do if we only trust him, but it takes vigilance and prayer. I know by experience the amount of good that can be accomplished toward leading others to a better and also a higher ideal of Christian life by home influence. Let your home be, that all who enter will feel that here Jesus dwells. It is not the amount of prayers offered or words spoken, but to reach a place ourselves where we can look at all this worry and conflict around us and know it must be overcome with good and each one must work out in himself and shed light all around to draw others from darkness.

6. We can be ministers in the church in so many ways. (1) By attending all services and be on time. (2) If any work is given us, say I will do the best I can, instead of I can't, give it to someone else. (3) Leave all grievances you may feel toward your fellow-men at home, but we do not want them there either; better lose them on the way and enter the door of the sanctuary full of life and good will. (4) By being adjusted ourselves we can assist in adjusting all things that are liable to arise.

If we leave self out, dedicate our whole mind and body to God and have patience, our way will be pointed out to us. Even the smallest details will be shown if we place our mind in that condition. Finally, dear brethren and sisters, try to realize that all are members of one common family, all are united by ties that none can sever. All must be gathered together as brothers and sisters before universal happiness can exist on earth. Do not forget that the burdens that sin has placed upon some shoulders are perhaps heavier than those we have to carry. In many instances they are heavy, oh, so heavy. Let each one of you that hear these words determine that you will do your utmost to lighten your brother's burdens and to bring as much happiness and sunshine to him as lies in your power, a little exertion on our part and putting aside of self will enable us to lighten the hard lesson that sin and error are compelling so many of the weak ones to learn. If we try we will succeed and the success of our endeavors will bring us not only an abiding peace, but the love and approval of the heavenly hosts who always note our every word and act. Kindness costs but little and repays much.

"Loving words will cost but little,
Journeying up the hill of life;
But they make the weak and weary
Stronger, braver for the strife.
Do you count them only trifles?
What to earth are sun and rain?
Never was a kind word wasted,
Never was one said in vain.

When the cares of life are many,
And its burdens heavy grow,
Think on weak ones close beside you
If you love them, tell them so
What you count of little value
Has almost magic power,
And beneath their cheering sunshine
Hearts will blossom like a flower.

So, as up life's hill we journey
Let us scatter, all the way
Kindly words, for they are sunshine
In the dark and cloudy day.
Grudge no loving word or action
As along through life you go;
There are weary ones around you—
If you love them, tell them so."

Church News.

MEYERSDALE NOTES.

This has been an off year with us. The previous year brought our harvest. Then we made eighty-one accessions. Since our last report (April, 1896,) we have recorded twenty-two, six of whom made their public application at our late meeting (November), over which Brother McFaden presided. We feel, however, that we are going on steadily, and holding the ground as we take it. Our charges (Meyersdale, Salisbury and Summit Mills) are thriving spiritually as well. We are all happy and of one mind.

I trust the missionary spirit may not grow faint in our brotherhood. The last General Conference brought out what I have been longing for for a number of years—an expression in favor of foreign work. The Indiana Conference also put itself on record with noble earnestness. The brethren and sisters of Indiana have my heartfelt gratitude for their approval of our willingness to enter the foreign field at the call of the church.

Now a word here by way of explanation: I have made no change of mind along this line since the beginning of my ministry. I have always held myself in readiness to go anywhere at the call of the church, esteeming such a call the call of God. Constituted in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, her Divine Head, I am ready to submit to her will as the will of Christ—or rather I resolve my will into hers. Again, some brother said "India." Perhaps I said so. If I did, I recall it, and say *anywhere*.

Another brother spoke about the sacrifice of those who will give their lives to foreign missions. Do not make such a